United Nations A/73/113

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 100 (a) of the preliminary list*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

A total of 25 fellowships on disarmament were awarded each year in 2017 and 2018. In 2017, the programme lasted from 21 August to 27 October. The 2018 programme is scheduled for 20 August to 26 October.

The programme of studies continues to be structured in three segments. The first segment of the programme, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, introduced the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. It also included a study visit to Bern and Spiez organized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. The second segment comprised study visits to international and regional organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament and arms control, including the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. The segment also comprised country visits at the invitation of the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea, as well as of the European Union. The third segment of the programme, held at Headquarters, was aimed in particular at familiarizing the fellows with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat.

The Secretary-General is pleased to note the contribution of the programme of fellowships on disarmament to a greater awareness of the importance of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. To date, the programme has trained 983 officials

* A/73/50.

18-10831 (E) 180718

Please recycle

from 167 States, a large number of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament and international security in their own governments.

The Secretary-General is gratified to note that the number of women nominated as fellows has remained high during the two-year reporting period. Against this background, the United Nations selected 32 women to participate in the fellowship programme in 2017–2018, which represents 64 per cent of the total number of fellowships awarded during that period.

The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all the Member States and international organizations that have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 71/73, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services", the General Assembly, among other things, commended the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme had continued to be carried out and requested him to continue to implement annually the programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-third session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

II. Programme of fellowships on disarmament

A. Fellowships for 2017 and 2018

2. A total of 25 fellowships were awarded in 2017 to the following officials:

Angola	Fernando Pedro Marques
Bhutan	Namgyel Sonam Choden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dario Krezić
Bulgaria	Darina Atanasova Zhelyazkova
Burkina Faso	Hema Doun-Sarma Safiatou Soulama Ouattara
Cambodia	Somalin San
Colombia	Laura Steffany Quintero-Buritica
France	Artida Minga
Germany	Lina-Marieke Hilgert
Guatemala	María del Rosario Estrada Girón
Haiti	Bernite Lazare François
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Javad Bakhshi
Israel	Dana Erlich
Kazakhstan	Gulsana Tulepbergenova
Madagascar	Hantavololona Ramahazosoa
Malaysia	Nur Azureen Mohd Pista
Mauritius	Tejaswinee Burumdoyal
Morocco	Lalla Saloua Moumni
Namibia	Magdalena Hilde Ndapandula Shipiki
Peru	Manuel Rodolfo Mundaca Peñaranda
Philippines	Karla Mae Gueriña Pabeliña
Saudi Arabia	Prince Salman Al Saud
Timor-Leste	Domingos Oki
Uganda	Tabitha Namulinda
State of Palestine	Fakhry Basem Fakhry Taha

3. In 2018, 25 fellowships were awarded to the following officials:

Afghanistan	Mohammad Jawad Raha
Australia	Merinda Cristiana Petersen
Azerbaijan	Nahida Baghirova
Botswana	Tshepang Thero Sethantsho
Brazil	Ernesto Batista Mané Júnior
China	Yao Yue
Costa Rica	Marcela Zamora Ovares
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Hervé Magaribi Lehani
Iceland	Finnbogi Rútur Finnbogason
Jamaica	Shae-Alicia Samantha Lewis
Japan	Nagisa Takahashi
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Venephet Philathong
Latvia	Ance Klava
Libya	Masaab E. M. Hamza
Maldives	Aishath Zeeshan Zuhuree
Mongolia	Amaraa Erdenebaatar
Montenegro	Goran Ruljić
Mozambique	Marta António Jorge Muando
Niger	Manga Mazou Mani
Pakistan	Muhammad Salman Khalid Chaudhary
Portugal	Rafaela Figueiredo Carvalho Miranda
Senegal	François Michel Moundor Diene
United States of America	Rachel Marie Hicks
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Arline Cristina Díaz Mendoza
Zimbabwe	Paidamwoyo Melinda Mitchelle Sigauke

4. Over the years, the efforts made by the United Nations to promote gender mainstreaming have resulted in a steady increase in the ratio of women to men who have been recipients of the fellowship. In 2017 and 2018, 32 of 50 fellowships were granted to women.

B. Programme of studies

5. The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament is implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2017, the programme lasted from 21 August to 27 October. In 2018, the programme is scheduled for 20 August to 26 October. The programme of studies is structured in three segments: (a) activities at the United Nations Office at Geneva and at the invitation of the Government of Switzerland; (b) study visits to other Member States, at their invitation, and intergovernmental

organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control; and (c) activities at Headquarters.

6. Both the theory and the practice of disarmament are covered during the programme. On the one hand, the programme consists of lectures, presentations, round tables, panels and other forms of interactive group discussion with senior diplomats and officials from international organizations and representatives of academic institutions, civil society and think tanks on the functioning of disarmament machinery and on key disarmament issues. On the other hand, it comprises field visits; demonstrations of on-site inspections; visits to weapons destruction facilities, nuclear test sites, nuclear reactors and scientific laboratories; research projects; simulations of multilateral negotiations; and other practical exercises. The activities of the 2017 programme are summarized below. The 2018 programme will generally follow the 2017 syllabus and will contain updates to reflect recent developments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

First segment

7. The first segment of the programme was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva and at other locations in Switzerland. In addition to receiving a general introduction to disarmament machinery and international humanitarian law, the fellows were instructed in various aspects of multilateral work on disarmament, including potential negotiations, through the work of the Conference on Disarmament and some Geneva-based treaty regimes [1] and research institutions dealing with disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

8. The fellows received briefings and lectures by senior representatives of various Member States, the office holders elected by the Conference on Disarmament and other treaty regimes, representatives of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the Geneva branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces, as well as by representatives of civil society, including those of the organizations Article 36, Geneva Disarmament Platform, Geneva Call and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

9. The fellows attended plenary meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and were briefed on a wide range of issues, including the history, achievements and current challenges faced by the Conference; the content, status and operation of the Geneva-based disarmament and arms control treaties; the latest developments in such fields as, among other things, improvised explosive devices; science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, including lethal autonomous weapons systems and cyberwarfare; and the role of non-governmental organizations in the multilateral disarmament process.

10. In addition, the fellows took part in a one-day visit to Bern and Spiez organized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, during which they were briefed on Swiss foreign and security policy, with a focus on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, challenges relating to the evolution of disarmament and arms control negotiations, mine action, small arms and light weapons, ammunition

[1] The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its annexed protocols, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Arms Trade Treaty.

management and the Arms Trade Treaty. The fellows attended a manual mine clearance demonstration and observed a live demolition of anti-personnel mines at the explosive ordnance disposal centre of the Swiss armed forces. The fellows also visited Geneva City Hall at the invitation of the Republic and of the canton of Geneva. Similar visits are scheduled for the 2018 programme.

11. While in Geneva, the fellows were also required to conduct research and to present the outlines of a paper on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and international security.

Second segment

12. The second segment of the programme comprised study visits to several intergovernmental organizations: the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court in The Hague and the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna. This segment of the programme also included country study visits to Member States, at their invitation.

13. At OPCW, the fellows were briefed on the origins, operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and its verification procedures and implementation at the national level, and on various aspects of the work of OPCW and its contributions to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts and to promoting international cooperation and assistance. They heard an update on the activities of OPCW relating to the Syrian Arab Republic. Also included as part of the programme was a visit to the OPCW laboratory and equipment store in Rijswijk and a demonstration of equipment and of an on-site inspection.

14. Through study visits to the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, the fellows were instructed in the origins and functioning of the two courts. They were briefed on the procedures and jurisdiction of the two judicial institutions, including on the cases of the Court of Justice relating to nuclear weapons and its advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

15. During the visit to the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the fellows received comprehensive briefings on the origins and status of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the continuing efforts towards the universalization and entry into force of the Treaty, the work of the Preparatory Commission and the structure of the international monitoring system. They were briefed on the functioning of the verification regime and its civil and scientific applications and on the Integrated Field Exercise in 2014 and took part in a simulation of an on-site inspection.

16. The study visit to IAEA comprised briefings on the international legal framework and the implementation of the Agency safeguards system, the safety and security of nuclear materials and radioactive sources, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. A visit to the IAEA laboratories in Seibersdorf and to the safeguards equipment laboratory at the Vienna International Centre were also included.

17. While in Vienna, the fellows were briefed on the functioning of several export control regimes, such as the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies and the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and visited the OSCE secretariat, where they were updated on the involvement

of OSCE in arms control and maintaining security and cooperation in Europe and beyond.

18. The fellows also visited (a) the Office for Outer Space Affairs, where they attended presentations on the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, space law and the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space; (b) the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-proliferation, where they heard presentations on nuclear-weapon-free zones and on verifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and (c) the Zwentendorf nuclear power plant.

19. In 2017, the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea continued the established practice of inviting participants in the fellowship programme to visit their national institutions and to attend lectures on national policies and priorities in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In 2018, the Governments of China, Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea, as well as, for the first time, the European Union, have extended similar invitations.

20. The study visit to Germany in 2017 included briefings by representatives of the Federal Foreign Office, the International Security Division of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs and the Robert Koch Institute on a wide range of disarmament and non-proliferation issues. The fellows also visited Nammo Buck, in Pinnow, a plant used for the demilitarization of ammunition, projectiles, rockets, mines, grenades, fuses and pyrotechnical material. During the visit, the fellows were briefed on environmentally friendly and safe disposal processes for conventional weapons, ammunition and explosive products and observed the destruction of cluster munitions. The study visit to Germany in 2018 will include similar activities.

21. The study visit to Kazakhstan included visits to the former nuclear weapons test site Opytnoye Pole, a thermonuclear fusion reactor, the National Nuclear Centre and museum on the grounds of the Institute of Radiation Safety and Ecology in the city of Kurchatov, Kazakh National Medical University, a museum of anatomy and histology and several cultural sites in Semey city and Astana. The fellows also received briefings by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the policy and initiatives of Kazakhstan in the field of disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament issues.

22. The study visit to China included briefings by officials from the Department of Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by representatives of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association on key disarmament and non-proliferation issues, as well as a visit to the State Nuclear Security Technology Centre. The fellows visited Harbin and its museum at the site of Unit 731 of the Japanese Imperial Army, as well as historical and cultural sites in Beijing. The study visit to China in 2018 will include similar activities.

23. The study visit to the Republic of Korea included attendance at a seminar on the disarmament and non-proliferation policies of the country and the security perspective on the Korean Peninsula that included the participation of senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the Korea National Diplomatic Academy. The fellows also visited the demilitarized zone. The study visit to the Republic of Korea in 2018 will include similar activities.

24. The Government of Japan and the municipalities of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki again organized activities for the recipients of the disarmament fellowship in 2017. In Tokyo, the fellows heard presentations by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation on the efforts of Japan towards nuclear disarmament. In Hiroshima,

the fellows visited the Peace Memorial Museum, the Atomic Bomb Dome and the National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims. They were briefed by representatives of Hiroshima city and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, had discussions with survivors of the atomic bombing and visited the Radiation Effects Research Foundation. In Nagasaki, the fellows visited the Atomic Bomb Hypocenter and the Atomic Bomb Museum, the National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, Nagasaki Peace Park and the Nagai Tashika Memorial Museum. They also met survivors of the bombings and visited the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition. The study visit to Japan in 2018 will include similar activities.

25. The study visit to the European Union in 2018 will be the first in the history of the programme.

Third segment

26. The third segment of the programme, held at Headquarters, is intended to further familiarize the fellows with key disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control issues, as well as with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the mandate and activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2017, this segment of the programme included a panel on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation that involved the participation of five ambassadors and briefings and lectures by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and senior staff of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, senior diplomats and representatives of civil society and academic institutions on a range of subjects. The subjects included nuclear doctrines and approaches, the functioning of the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Nuclear Weapons and its review process, the responsibilities and activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, items included in the agenda of the First Committee and multilateral diplomacy and decision-making within the United Nations. The fellows regularly attended meetings of the First Committee, as well as the joint meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to outer space security and sustainability.

27. Also while in New York, the fellows took part in a simulated negotiation exercise in the context of the Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, jointly organized with the Center for Global Affairs of New York University. The exercise included negotiations on effective legal measures towards the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the coordination of group positions and the introduction and consideration of an outcome document.

28. During the segment, the fellows finalized their research papers and gave presentations on the key findings thereof. At the end of the programme, they were awarded certificates of participation by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the Chair of the First Committee.

III. Conclusion

29. The year 2018 marks the fortieth anniversary of the decision taken by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, in 1978, to launch a United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament aimed at promoting expertise in disarmament in Member States, in developing countries in particular. During its 39 years of operation, the programme has trained 983 officials from 167 States. The role of the programme in enhancing the capabilities of young diplomats to participate in disarmament deliberations and negotiations is well recognized and appreciated.

Today, many alumni hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament, including senior positions, within their own governments and in relevant international organizations. The broad support for the biennial resolution on the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services, as well as the large number of nominations for the programme received every year by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, is testimony to the undiminished interest of the Member States in the programme. The Secretary-General is particularly satisfied with the high number of women nominated for participation in the programme during the reporting period.

30. The Secretary-General is pleased to note the contribution of the programme of fellowships on disarmament towards a greater awareness of the importance of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control in the context of international security. The programme continues to play a decisive role in promoting multilateralism and facilitating a better understanding of the functioning of the United Nations disarmament machinery and of other institutions working in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control at the global and regional levels, as well as of international security.

31. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to all States and organizations that have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success. He extends his particular appreciation to the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, as well as to the European Union, for their continued support for the programme. The Secretary-General also extends his grateful recognition to IAEA, the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, OPCW, OSCE and the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for their support for and contributions to the programme.